

Minutes of Reentry Meeting 6/18/2013

Those present on location: John Daugherty, Mike Aldrich, Ron Alsbury, Gary Mihelish, Judy Beck, Jim Pagels, Gayle Lambert and Patti Jaques (guest)

Those present on phone: Bob Paul, Myron Beeson, Candyce Neubauer, Tom Wilson, John Williams and Janice Riechelt (guest)

The group went around the table and on the phone and introduced themselves. Ms. Jaques stated that she was a guest, associated with NAMI.

Ms. Riechelt was not on the phone at that time.

Gayle gave an overview of HB68 and stated that this would be the last meeting of the current task force, although all those present were welcome to attend the newly formed task force that goes into effect 7/1/2013. The names of the new task force members are as follows, with the first the mandatory membership per statute and the optional membership following:

DOC – Pam Bunke, John Daugherty, Leroy Kirkegard and Gayle Lambert

OPI – Nancy Coopersmith

University System – Dr. Mark Pagano

DOLI – Steve Olson

DPHHS – Tom Nielson

DOCom – to be determined

DOJ – John Strandell

Crime Victim – to be determined

Faith Based Organization – Mo Wosepka (Montana Catholic Conference)

Mental Health Organization/Community Member – Dr. Gary Mihelish (NAMI)

State Legislator – to be determined

Native American – to be determined

Acronyms used throughout minutes:

MORRA – Montana Offender Risk and Reentry Assessment

MSP – Montana State Prison

MSUB – Montana State University Billings

MWP – Montana Women's Prison

P & P – Probation and Parole

POs – Parole Officers

Reentry Parole Officers

SCA – Second Chance Act

WRNA – Women's Risk and Needs Assessment

Updates

Billings Area Reentry Task Force – **Jim Pagels** reported that the task force is transitioning from grant funded to what programs will be sustained after the grant funding is ended. Larry Gaalswyk started as the Mentoring Grant Program Director. He has recruited more mentors for the program. The meeting last week had a new item on the agenda – success stories. He stated that was received very well. The Center for Children and Families received another grant and they have increased classes that they are providing to include one for male offenders called "Becoming Whole". They are also providing two additional classes for the women. He did not have the name. Jim gave the numbers of women who are in the community (17), Passages (11) and still at the Prison (24).

Gayle Lambert reported that there are two active federal grants for the Billings area. One grant is from the Second Chance Act (SCA) and the grant holder is the Department of Labor, who contracts

with Montana State University Billings (MSUB), who provides services to female inmates. The second grant is also through the SCA and it is for mentoring. This grant was written by MSUB, and again it provides services to females.

John Daugherty reported that there is a third grant through SCA for technology education for inmates and that the 1st program started at MSP and will be expanded to PHYCF and MWP.

John Williams reported that Katie Weston, the reentry parole officer now has 19 men on her case load and that is working well, transitioning in the men too. He also stated that the communication is going very well the prison, community corrections, the prerelease and the community partners. They are still looking at how they can improve the system and they will continue to look for training that will improve the competencies of the officers and other staff. Thinking for a Change is scheduled for the week of August 12th and there are 24 slots that will be split between community corrections and secure care. They are gathering names and Pam and Gayle can make the decision of who will go.

Mental Health – Gary Mihelish passed out three handouts. One was an article from a psychiatric journal that spoke about the importance of supportive housing for women coming out of prison and the high occurrence of co-occurring disorders among women. The second handout pertained to the Montana Mental Health Trust grant announcement that recently went out. He would like to see the Department apply for the grant with a community partner to possibly find more housing for people coming out of prison with a mental illness or co-occurring disorder. He spoke about the possibility of utilizing the grant for a pilot project for additional prerelease beds or transitional housing specifically for this population. The deadline is September 6th. Ron and Mike explained that they currently work with community providers, but stated that he is not sure how much they are connecting the housing piece. They also stated that many offenders are sent to an alternative placement when they are on parole to get them stabilized on medication. Bob Paul added that 140 of the 190 women in MWP are on some type of psychotropic medication. Mike and Ron are going to discuss the grant possibilities with Pam and Dr. Mihelish is going to talk to Western Montana Mental Health to see if there is interest in partnering with the Department. He believes that this would be a good way to demonstrate to the Governor and the Legislature that the Department is working towards effective reintegration for offenders with mental health issues.

Housing – Jim Pagels reported on the Faith based community housing meeting that was held the day before via teleconferencing from the Missoula P & P office. He stated that the membership is still working at identifying transitional housing. Two individuals this past month brought forth additional beds and they are working with P & P. One of the houses is in Kalispell and three in Cut Bank owned by one man and the other man has two houses in Bozeman. Michael McCleary wants to assist the group in finding additional housing options throughout the state. Landy Holloway in Missoula is doing a great job in that area with finding housing and with the offenders. Missoula Interfaith Collaborative is a group of 27 churches in Missoula focusing on homelessness, including housing resources for offenders. The Montana Interfaith Council is a shoot-off group from this and is also interested in helping with reentry efforts. They are working at developing a resource manual for Missoula. They are identifying gaps and resources. Currently there are 22 organizations represented at different times in their meetings. He also sits on the video visitation committee as this faith based group is very interested in this area. They want to also find ways to better communicate with us and for the Department to communicate better with them. They would like for us to look at our policies that seem to be very restrictive for them to work with the offenders.

Employment – Steve Olson reported that Sam Casey visited with the Anaconda Job Service office about the reentry program and to see if there was a possibility of someone from the office going to the prison on a monthly basis to sign men who will be getting out of prison up for job service. Although they were interested, they do not have the resources, therefore Steve spoke to the Bozeman office. They will begin to send someone to MSP one day per month for ½ day. Sam is working up some guidelines so that we do not inundate them with people. We will start small having the men with one month left to parole to meet with them. Steve attended a statewide meeting and

Marie Sewell gave a presentation on the Billings reentry efforts. He is continuing to work with the other offices to educate them on reentry and answer questions, including what are the expectations of the offices. He stated that some offices are enthusiastic and some are less than enthusiastic, so they will continue to work on getting offices involved to the level that they can be with their staffing. Secure Facilities – MSP – Tom Wilson put three documents on the computer for all to follow and explained that the MSP has their first draft of the Correctional Case Management document complete. He stated that they are trying to stay faithful to Dr. Latessa's four key indicators. Risk, Needs, Responsivity and Fidelity. He and Sam met with the group from Billings to work on meshing the case management plans of community corrections with secure care. He stated that they are making headway, but there are going to be differences, as there are different needs depending on where the offender is in the system. Tom explained the three documents that he presented and they were very well received by the group. The documents help to explain the different assessments under MORRA and what you gain from the assessments and how you plan what the offender needs by the information you gained. Tom also explained that there are eleven staff waiting for motivational interviewing and then all MSP staff that will need the training to begin assessments (with the exception of one case manager) will be ready to start. They have moved the implementation date to August 1st.

MWP – Bob Paul reported that they continue to work on the reentry efforts and that DW Daly has changed some of the therapeutic community to a Recovery and Reentry Model.

Secure Facilities – Ron stated that we now have RPOs in all regions that will have a specialized caseload, with the exception of region six where it is so small that all POs will be trained. Mike stated that 78% of all P & P have had the motivational interviewing, but that only about 12% have been through the MORRA training. John stated that they just completed a WRNA and MORRA training in Billings. He has about 30% of his staff trained on MORRA. After August they will start having one training class per month. The other regions only train in MORRA. Mike stated that they received the Smart Probation grant for \$995K over two years. This grant will be for targeted probationers in Missoula and Billings. They are going to work with offenders that have a deferred sentence so that they can work to keep them out of ever going to prison. Most of these individuals are 25 and under, so they fit right into the Department's target population. They have hired University of Montana as the third party evaluator for the grant. Thinking for a Change was brought up again and the need to have someone from Training attend so that we can get a Trainer in the Department. ***Gayle stated that she would talk to Lisa Hunter.***

Other Business

John Daugherty stated that there was already a change to the WRNA assessment. The change was supposed to be out almost a year ago and he had his IT department waiting to get the assessment into OMP until the changes were made. When they had not been made by January, they went ahead and programmed the document into OMP. Now the assessment has changed, but University of Cincinnati did not send a document that stated what the changes were and they are waiting for this to make the needed changes to OMP.

Public Comment

Patti Jaques stated that before she started she did want to let us know that she did have a son in the system. She stated that as she was listening to the meeting, she would suggest that you provide a list of acronyms as she did not know many of the things that were discussed because of the acronyms. She thinks this will be needed for the new members under HB68. She also believes that it would be beneficial to have the number of offenders in each of the programs that we speak about and the amount of the grants and how they work with the offender. She was concerned that if we were doing assessments and the offenders came out high risk that they would end up on the high side and there are not services for them. We explained the difference between classification and the MORRA assessment. Jim also explained that there are additional services for offenders on the high side and that this is the reason for the assessment. Those who need additional services will get them

and there will not be a cookie cutter, one size fits all approach to programming. She also thinks that a list of employers that hire offenders in Helena would be good. She stated that she and her husband run a business and they hire offenders from the prerelease. She spoke with a man in Great Falls with "Open Doors" and she believes that they are going to apply for money from the Mental Health trust. They are looking at purchasing a building for transitional housing for mentally ill coming from prison and veterans. She was concerned that when Tom Wilson was talking about the MORRA assessments that the CST assessment did not have a mental health component to it. John Daugherty and Mike Aldrich explained that mental health assessments are different assessments and that they are done regardless of the MORRA.

Janice Riechelt was on the telephone at that point and asked to say a few words as a member of the public. She also stated that she had a son at Montana State Hospital forensic unit. He went with two men to Butte to get the card that he needed before he was released. She stated that it was very stressful for him. The men were nice, but it was the first time he had been in a car going to a city and it was hard on him. She also said the card was costly and they should be doing those cards there so it would be less expensive. When he got out he went someplace and they knew that he had been in the State Hospital and he was not treated well. He then went to the DMV and two women were very kind to him. She stated that the cards were a big deal to Senator Shockley when he was in the legislature because she heard him talk about it. She also stated that her son went to a transitional home in Missoula and he had applied to 14 jobs before the case manager even knew he was looking for a job and she did not want him to get one because then he would not be eligible to get his medication because he would make too much money. The system has to get where it can encourage people instead of discourage them. She then stated that people with schizophrenia will present as anti-social and that the Department needs to be aware of that. She stated that the worst behaviors are from those with mental illness regardless of whether they are on medication, because their medication has to be changed constantly.

Gayle asked her to send in her comments so that we could put them with the minutes, as she her phone connection was not that clear.

Pattie Jacques added that she believes that the new group of task force members coming in July will need a two to three day training to introduce them. She would love to attend as a member of the public and a son within the system.

End of Minutes

Gayle Lambert